National Action Plan for Tourism

2429. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tourist Department had formulated a National Action Plan for Tourism (NAPT) and recently prepared a Strategy Paper seeking Rs. 39,100 crores from Government, Private and Finance Institutions for integrated development; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A strategy paper was prepared by the Ministry of Tourism in 1996. In May 1998 the Govt. has formed a Group of Ministers to examine and recommend various steps for the development and promotion of tourism in the country.

Foreign exchange from tourism industry

2430. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourism industry is the third largest foreign exchange earner after garments and jewellery, earning Rs. 8196 crores in 1995; and

(b) the reasons for which Government are not investing enough in this sector since it has an inherent high growth potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF - TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Tourism is the third largest foreign exchange earner of the country and during 1995-96, the estimated foreign exchange earning was Rs. 9185.88 crores.

(b) The budget allocation of Department of Tourism for the year 1995-96 was Rs. 92.00 crores. This amount was spent on tourism infrastructue development, publicity and marketing and human resource development. The budget allocation of Department of Tourism for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 90.00 crores and Rs. 110.35 crores respectively. For 1998-99, the budget allocation is Rs. 160.50 crores.

detailed financial estimate for setting up this village?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes Sir

(b) The State Government has not approached Ministry of Tourim for sanction of the project. However the Memorandum of understanding signed by the State with the Austec Gaming Alliance USA envisages that necessary approvals of Central Government and authorities concerned shall be obtained.

(c) According to the information received from the State Government, the facilities proposed at "Sun Village" would include, inter alia, accommodation units, a Golf Course, Water Sports Centre, a Commercial Shopping Complex, Yoga Centre, Convention Centre, and development of an airport at an approximate cost of USD 500 million.

Development of Harappan site in Kutch

2428. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts of ASI have found Harappan site at Dholavira in Kutch District of Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have any plan for developing this site as tourist spot for International and Indian Tourists researchers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government for creating necessary infrastructure facilities of international level there alongwith the amount earmarked for the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 19.65 lakhs during 1997-98 to the Government of Gujarat for the development of tourist facilities at Dholavira.

Dual tariff in Hotels

2431. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is a system of Dual Tariff in Hotels in India;

(b) if so, the total number of hotels which practice "Dual Tariff";

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any study or survey on the likely impact of removing "Dual Tariff" system;

(d) if so, the agency which will conduct this study; and

(e) the time frame to submit the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 40 hotels, out of the 1160 approved hotels.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Hotel Association of India had discussions with Dr. Raja J. Chelliah, Chairman, National Institute of Public Finance Policy to undertake the above study.

M. Yunus Committee on Tourism

2432. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the report of M. Yunus Committee on Tourism;

(b) whether it is a fact that the report has not been implemented fully; and

(c) what steps are proposed to review the progress in implementing the principle recommendation of M. Yunus Committee on Tourism of 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Mohammad Yunus Committee report recommended a number of measures for ensuring accelerated growth of tourism in the country. The Government implemented the recommendations by:

- Setting up the Tourism Finance Corporation of India for financing tourism projects.
- A Package of incentives was made available to Private Sector.
- The travel circuit concept was Adopted to maximise the benefits from limited Resources.
- Tourism products were diversified.
- New offices have been opened in new tourism generating markets.
- India Convention Promotion Bureau was set up for the promotion of conferences and conventions.
- The Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management as an apex body was set up to train manpower in the tourism sector.
- The Policy to introduce air charters to the country was introduced.
- Eco-Tourism guidelines have been worked out and adventure tourism activities have been developed in the country.

Operation of Tourism Development Council

2433. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any tourism development council in operation;

(b) if so, the details of membership of such a body;

(c) the number of Government nominees on this body;

(d) the recommendations of this body with regard to Dual Princing Policy with regard to hotel accommodation for foreign tourists; and

(e) the details of Government's stand and the hotel's managements, etc?